

TIMBERLAND REGIONAL LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Olympia Public Library  
7th and Franklin  
Olympia, Washington

February 21, 1974

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Chairman of the Raymond board. She said she hoped all the Board Members received copies of her letters to Mr. Wieland and Mayor Briggs on January 31 outlining the conversation she had with Mr. Wieland about the problems with Raymond in Raymond's proposed contract. She said that Jane Smith had since then talked with Mr. Wieland in an informal attorney-to-attorney fashion.

Mrs. Morrison said Mrs. Smith also is checking on the request from Linda Hansford of the Montesano Library to clarify the relationship of the Montesano Board. Mrs. Smith now has the material in hand which she needed. The Director said that Mrs. Smith has not solved it yet but will come up with a recommendation with what the Montesano Board should do in regard to the IRS and the money which the Montesano Board handles as part of the Fleet Fund. Mrs. Morrison said Mrs. Smith offered to come to make the report tonight but had to be in Elma at 7:30 p.m. so Mrs. Morrison told her she would make it instead.

Mrs. Morrison said the Board Members received a copy of the letter which indicated a closed door on the previous personnel problem regarding Mrs. Robbins.

The library district directors met February 20th at King County Library to discuss recommendations for the allocation of \$1,336,000 which the Legislature did appropriate for library districts. Eleven of the 15 directors were present and were unanimous in support of the following recommendation to the Commission: For unincorporated areas of all library districts on a county-by-county basis, library districts be reimbursed in an amount which will reflect the difference between the local levy if at the highest allowable millage and what the amount would be if at the state ratio of 50% of true and fair value, and that any remaining funds be granted on a pro rata basis in the same manner for cities which contract with the library districts. (The entire funds will come to the library district but will be insufficient to cover both.) The directors felt this was the only fair way. The district directors went on to say that the State Library Commission is well aware that the \$1,336,000 does not truly maintain present levels of library service. The library district directors also support the Commission's efforts in working with the Legislature and the Office of Program Planning and Fiscal Management for speedy allocation of federal funds presently held in unallotted status.

Mrs. Morrison said Timberland will be sending her secretary to the one-day 21st Annual Secretarial Workshop sponsored by the University of Washington Department of Short Courses and Conferences.

2) Assistant Director, Western Area--Mrs. Barton

Mrs. Barton called the Board's attention to the written report on her visit with the Quinault School District and the school superintendent's exciting vision for the future. The superintendent would like to see a total community art center which would include both public and school libraries as well as art and craft instruction in the same facility on the school grounds. The superintendent needs to find funds to finance this study. Dr. Lawrence said once Timberland gets the "new units study

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group" put together and functioning it might be an interesting exercise to ask Farwest Homes to look at this in terms of an architectural contract bid. Dr. Lawrence urged Mrs. Barton to explore this possibility.

Mrs. Barton also called the Board's attention to the report on the alternative methods for funding capital construction.

Mrs. Barton requested that the Board note the report on the Washington State Thermal Power Plant Planning Council Meeting in Elma. Mrs. Barton said that she and Mrs. Stough attended just to keep the Board and the Director informed about what the plan is for the power plant at the confluence of the Satsop and Chehalis Rivers.

Mrs. Barton said that at the last meeting the Board talked about the proposal to get some funds for Taholah to finance special materials for their library on forestry and fisheries. The Quinalts told Mrs. Barton they have already tried Title IV of the Indian Education Fund, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the Weyerhaeuser Foundation. Not one of the three came through. Mrs. Barton recommended that, in good faith with Taholah, Timberland submit a grant proposal as suggested earlier to see if it might be approved. Mrs. Morrison agreed and said the futility of applying for grants had decreased about 100% since the last Board meeting with the release of the impounded federal funds which are now in the State Treasurer's Office.

Mrs. Barton said that she and Mrs. Stough have given the Board reports on some boards and some libraries instead of trying to put something in about everybody. She said they only included the highlights.

Mrs. Barton asked the Board to look at the report entitled "Predictions of Things to Come." On the chart in the report she pointed out the changes in the circulation patterns. The smaller libraries in January of 1974 compared to January 1973 have increased 45% in circulation and 41% in patrons; the larger, 2.5% in circulation and 7.5% in patrons; and bookmobiles down 19% in circulation and down 22.4% in patrons. Dr. Lawrence asked what this means in terms of bookmobile service. Ms. Blumberg referred the Board to the fifth paragraph of the report which documented the cut-backs in bookmobile service. Pacific County was cut back to once a month at the beginning of January 1974. She said the staff thought they would be able to hang on in the other four counties but gasoline supplies have been sharply curtailed to the bookmobile from the Grays Harbor County shop. They were called on the 16th and told they would not get any more gas for the month. The Lewis County bookmobile is on commercial pumps as always and is still running on the old schedule. Thurston County and Mason County have the same situations somewhat except staff sedans use county pumps but the bookmobiles use Binger's so are running at the full schedule. Dr. Lawrence asked if there has been a corresponding increase in the utilization of the WATS line as a result of the gasoline shortage and the reduction of bookmobile service. Mrs. Barton said several of the larger libraries in the last few days have been receiving more incoming telephone calls from patrons who could not get to the bookmobile because of the gas shortage. Ms. Greenwood stated that the WATS line has been

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busier this year. She said there used to be one to three calls a day but 20 calls had been received today. Ms. Greenwood said that the usage the last few days has been from adults rather than students with school assignments. Ms. Blumberg reported that the staff has almost finished doing an intense analysis of the last 11 months' usage of WATS to find out where the calls are coming from, what time of day, etc. The first month the WATS line was implemented there were 67 calls; in January 1974 there were 216 calls. Mason County still is the leader in the number of people using the WATS line. Dr. Lawrence suggested that the Director stimulate a news release to the effect that "Timberland has a gas-saving service, use your phone," and give the WATS number. Mrs. Barton said that flyers are being printed for some of the smaller libraries in more remote areas, pointing out the hours open for those people who are not getting their bookmobile service regularly and giving the telephone numbers of the local libraries so patrons can call if they cannot leave the house.

Mr. Cox asked if the bookmobile is suffering from disfavor or if it is the lack of availability. Ms. Blumberg said she did not know as she had not been in the district long enough to get comparative statistics together. Mrs. Barton said what Timberland is interested in pointing out is that new smaller facilities in remote areas are a phenomenal success. The Board agreed with this. Mrs. Barton said one of the things which is "standard" in library use is that once patrons find something they like, they keep using it.

Mr. Keiski said in the very near future there will be hard data for the Board to consider regarding public reaction to the reduction of bookmobile service. In the North Thurston County area a door-to-door survey conducted by volunteers in the area of planning and land use is coming up with some very interesting data that the Board might consider and the reaction that pollsters are finding in a long questionnaire dealing primarily with land use and planning but containing questions pertaining to other public services. Many rural patrons are aware of Timberland's services and think it is a good library system but do not understand why the bookmobile service has been discontinued in their area. Dr. Lawrence said this would be a good reason to have a news release which explains this and tells what services are available to supplement the reduced bookmobile activity.

Ms. Blumberg said that apropos of this, she had a call from the bookmobile service supervisor for Pacific County. The supervisor found on the Long Beach-Peninsula run that there was an average circulation of thirteen books per person since the patrons had been told the bookmobile would not be back for a month. Generally the people were understanding and expected a cut to come because of the fuel shortage.

3) Assistant Director, Eastern Area--Mrs. Stough

Mrs. Stough said she and Mrs. Barton had changed the format of their report as they did not want to go ticking through a list of libraries thinking of clever things to say. She said they divided the report into sections

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on boards, friends, programs, and general libraries.

Mrs. Stough said she wanted to point out the outstanding Friends of the Library program of the Olympia Library. She said instead of just mentioning the program she attached the article from the Daily Olympian to the report. She said Mrs. Coppinger, the Board, and the Friends are to be commended for making such an outstanding program available.

Mrs. Stough said Dr. Lawrence had mentioned that Mr. Zimmerman talked to him in his capacity as secretary of the Bicentennial activities. She said Mr. Zimmerman has some interesting ideas about programs that should be connected with Bicentennial. Mrs. Stough said there will be a dedication of the new listening center in the Chehalis Library on February 23 at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Lawrence asked Mrs. Stough to have Mr. Zimmerman report to the Board on some of his views. Mrs. Stough said Mr. Zimmerman was interviewed on the radio and mentioned several things like taping reminiscences of some of the old-time residents in Lewis County.

Mrs. Stough reported that there had been a puppet workshop four Saturdays in a row. Margaret Giske, Chehalis Children's Librarian, worked with the Chehalis Recreation Department on the workshop. Mrs. Stough said it is outstanding in that Ms. Giske was working with the community in order to get this done. Mrs. Stough said she attended their finale last Saturday and was amazed to see so many parents and grandparents there to see the finished product.

Dr. Lawrence told Mrs. Stough that Claude St. Denis, the pantomimist, who performed at the Centralia College Little Theater put on an elegant performance, and it drew a busload of children from Littlerock Grade School. He said that the auditorium was full to comfortable overcrowding. Dr. Lawrence said he heard some extremely favorable comments from the citizens of Centralia on it and they were pleased. Mr. Sheafe said he hoped Timberland could work with Centralia College on more programs.

Mrs. Stough said that she and Mrs. Morrison had attended the annual meeting of the Friends of North Mason Library. She said the Board knows what an outstanding group this is. This year \$2700 was realized on calendars and other money-raising activities. The Friends intend to make the interest payment plus two years' payments on their land. They have the sign up in the trees which says "Future Site of Timberland North Mason Library."

4) Business Manager--Mr. Ayres

Mr. Ayres apologized to Mr. Keiski and the rest of the Board for not getting out the requested bar graph and said that he could not come up with a meaningful bar graph of any value on paper.

In 1973 the revenue picture was \$1,790,740; expenditures were \$1,674,018. Of this money, Mr. Ayres said that the district was able to invest, after expenditures, \$91,000. He said it was not until January 1974 that \$250,000 came in for the year 1973. Lewis County had not sent forward October, November, and December funds until December 31st. Mr. Ayres said he

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thought the delay was because of the reduction in taxes and the necessity to refigure and make refunds.

For 1973 the final tracking charts were as follows:

Unincorporated areas: Revenue--Budget \$907,747; Received \$942,880

Incorporated areas: Budget \$454,268; Received \$502,268

Miscellaneous Receipts: Budget \$51,110; Received \$162,464.  
(In addition to this is the \$183,128 grant money).

Interest Receipts and Expenditures: Expended \$1,686; Receipts \$804.

Salaries and wages: Budget \$897,596; Expended \$893,951.

Telephone: Budget \$22,744; Spent \$500 more than budgeted.

Postage: Budget \$16,585; Spent \$17,129.

Vehicle operation: Budget \$14,000; Spent \$13,875.

Materials and Supplies: Budget \$25,500; Spent \$26,241.

Transportation: Budget \$13,750; Spent \$12,658.

Mrs. Morrison said this will be the end of this particular kind of presentation because of the changes in budget categories with the mandatory change to the Budgeting/Accounting/Reporting System in 1974. Mr. Ayres said in the folders there is a suggested reporting format. Mr. Ayres said he would like to know what the Board would like to have on the charts. Dr. Lawrence said the Board discussed this with the Director in executive session and she has the information on this.

The Board had a discussion about the late payment of some of the 1973 tax monies. After much discussion, the Board decided not to follow through on this since it appeared to be a one-time problem due to the tax reduction and necessity for making refunds.

Mrs. McArthur asked for a report from Mrs. Coppinger. Mrs. Coppinger deferred to Mr. Fuller. Mr. Fuller said the City Supervisor had appreciated being informed of the meeting tonight but was unable to attend. Mr. Fuller said the one key item would be the interest in Olympia in getting a new library facility. He said there is a dilemma because the Olympia board is anxious to go ahead with it in the next election. On the other hand, the task of the Committee of the Seventies is to determine priorities and the local newspaper is not always in agreement with whatever is suggested. The result is that nothing gets done. Mr. Fuller said the way to get improvements would be to get the Committee of the Seventies to determine priorities. He said he is all for the committee but the problem is the timing. Mr. Fuller said the Olympia board only has until April

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1975 to use the \$50,000 Swenson bequest, otherwise it will be given to Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota. Mrs. Coppinger said the mayor is talking \$6,000,000 for a library complex but the staff feels \$3,000,000 would suffice. Mr. Fuller said the library facility is outdated and tough to work in. Mrs. Coppinger reported that the city already has spent 2000% over their repair budget for the library for 1974.

4 Communications

A. Letter from Shelton Public Library dated January 21, 1974 regarding a possible reciprocal agreement.

Mrs. Morrison read a letter addressed to Mrs. McArthur from the Shelton Public Library letting Timberland know that the Shelton Board had been reorganized, their position had not changed in regard to local control, and they would like to explore the possibility of a reciprocal agreement.

Mr. Cox said he felt Timberland must give its attention to rural Mason County instead of Shelton. Mrs. McArthur said she had talked unofficially with the Chairman of the Board and the Shelton Board position remained unchanged. Apparently the main purpose of the letter was to let rural Mason County residents know Shelton is willing to cooperate in a reciprocal agreement.

Mr. Keiski said he had a minority opinion regarding Shelton. He said he feels that, for an interim period until concrete services are available for South Mason County residents, Timberland should attempt to work out an agreement with the library in Shelton to service Timberland patrons and further assist the patrons by providing certain materials for an interim period within the library of Shelton provided the library trustees there will concur with Timberland in observing the same standard that Timberland requires for use of projector, screen, and framed art print services. When the picture is clear in terms of specific services to residents of South Mason County, Timberland could further elaborate or terminate this arrangement with the Shelton Library Board. Patrons of the Shelton Library also would have access to this service as well. Mr. Keiski felt this should be offered to the Shelton Library Board to see what that board thinks of it either formally or informally. Mr. Cox said that they would think they finally have Timberland service without paying Timberland fees.

Mrs. Morrison said the problem is that if you start down this road you could perhaps tear down the things that have taken years to build. If each library in Timberland wanted to be a separate entity and have service for free, there would be no service for them to use simply because there would be no way to bring it together. After much discussion on this subject, Dr. Lawrence said the significant point of Mr. Keiski's argument is that Timberland is not doing what it is obligated to do for the citizens of South Mason County.

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DR. LAWRENCE MOVED THAT THE BOARD WITHDRAW THE CURRENT AGREEMENT WITH JOHN KNEELAND AND INSTRUCT THE DIRECTOR TO EXPLORE NEW AVENUES OF LOCATING A UNIT IN SOUTH MASON COUNTY UNLESS THERE IS EVIDENCE OF IMMEDIATE ACTION, SECONDED BY MR. BAKER AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Dr. Lawrence suggested that the Director communicate to the Shelton Library Board that their letter is under study and a definite report will be made to them after the next meeting. The letter will keep the door open while the Director explores the other avenue. Mrs. Morrison said it might be better for Mrs. McArthur to write the letter saying the Timberland Board has taken the matter under study and is exploring several possibilities and would respond in the near future. Mr. Keiski said the Board would have to make whatever response members felt necessary. Dr. Lawrence said the Board needs to consider alternative ways as Mr. Keiski suggested.

B. Letter from Mrs. J.T. Walker, Chairman, WLTA Trustee Citation Committee

Mrs. Walker said it is again time to nominate outstanding trustees for the annual presentation which will be held May 4, 1974 during the WLA Conference in Yakima. Nomination forms were enclosed.

5 Unfinished Business

A. Resolution supporting a New National Program of Library and Information Service.

Mrs. McArthur said the Board instructed the Director to have a formal resolution ready for the Board meeting expressing Timberland's support of "A New National Program of Library and Information Service". A copy of the resolution had been sent to the Board Members. Since a copy had been mailed, the resolution was not read. Mrs. McArthur said the Board unanimously endorsed the concept at the last meeting so all that was necessary was the signing of the resolution. Mrs. Schmidt said she agreed with the resolution as presented but she was not happy with what she had read in the "White Paper." She said she would rather wait until after she has had an opportunity to attend some of the forums. Mrs. Morrison said all that is necessary is the signing of the resolution unless the Board takes issue with the way it is worded. Dr. Lawrence said he felt that it is an important enough issue that he would suggest all members be comfortable with what is going on. He suggested waiting until next month to have the resolution signed. Mrs. McArthur instructed the director to make this the first item on the agenda next month to get it signed.

B. Revision of 1974 Budget

Mr. Keiski said the budget committee is apprised of the details of it and concurs with it.

MR. KEISKI MOVED THAT THE BOARD ADOPT THE REVISED BUDGET OF 1974. SECONDED BY DR. LAWRENCE AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.



Mrs. Morrison asked if the Board was aware that this included a new position. Dr. Lawrence said all the positions can be in it that the staff wants but need a staffing authorization by the Board to fill it.

D. Renewal of May 1972 Grant Request from Washington State Library

Mrs. Morrison said library directors who had submitted grant requests were told that if they would like the grants funded there should be current justification. She said with South Mason waiting and Taholah in the offing it seemed to her that now would be a good time to re-submit because there are federal funds. She said the Board has copies and did have copies of the Taholah Grant Request and have had a report on the attempts that have already been made to get funds. She said this commitment goes back four or five years. Mrs. Morrison recommended that the Board approve grant requests for Taholah and South Mason. Mrs. Morrison said they would not renew the application for funds for Tenino. Mrs. McArthur said what needed to be done was renew the grant request to the Washington State Library Commission to be used for the Taholah area and South Mason. Mrs. Morrison said Taholah had never been submitted.

DR. LAWRENCE MOVED THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE ACTION FOR THE APPLICATION FOR GRANTS FROM THE WASHINGTON STATE LIBRARY COMMISSION FOR TAHOLAH AND SOUTH MASON. SECONDED BY MR. BAKER AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mrs. Morrison said the State Library Commission meets tomorrow and she hoped the requests would be considered then.

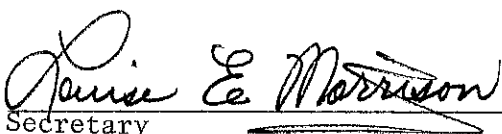
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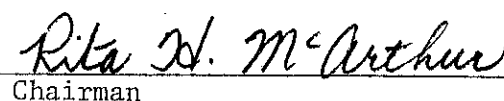
Mrs. McArthur returned to the question of the centralized position between Centralia and Chehalis. Dr. Lawrence said he had nothing further to add and said Mrs. Stough understands what they are attempting to do and he feels comfortable with her picking up the ball from this point on.

Dr. Lawrence dictated a letter for the Director's secretary to type up for Mayor Briggs of Raymond. The letter concerned Mr. Briggs' feeling that the Centralia City Commission was uncomfortable with the Timberland contract system of supplying library service to that community. Dr. Lawrence had explored this with Bill Tilton and found this impression to be erroneous. He said the Director could modify the letter in any way she saw fit and to prepare the letter for Mrs. McArthur's signature.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

After the meeting was adjourned, Mrs. McArthur appointed Mr. Baker, Mr. Keiski, Dr. Lawrence and herself to the committee to work with Mr. George Andrews, with Mr. Keiski as Chairman. Staff will include Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Barton and Ms. Blumberg.

  
Secretary

  
Chairman